

NEW WORDS

roster
ros' tər

stunted
stunt' id

atrophy
at' rə fē

maim
māim

ameliorate
ə mē' lyə rāt

IT TAKES MORE THAN MEDICINE

If one were to look at the *roster* of physical handicaps, one would reach the somber* conclusion that the list is a long one. Included would be *stunted* development of an arm or leg due to a birth anomaly.* Others would be the result of a crippling disease that has caused muscles to *atrophy*. The list would go on with illnesses and injuries that *maim* and debilitate.* Modern medicine has done much to *ameliorate* the physical problems. However, there are an inordinate* number of problems of the handicapped that have still to be alleviated.* People are not naturally callous,* but in some perverse* way they have the propensity* to repress* any concern with the physically handicapped. The social problems seem to be inherent* in our own attitudes.

Sample Sentences Insert the new words in these sentences.

1. If you heap opprobrium* on an impious* child, it probably will not _____ the conditions that led to the rebelliousness.
2. The coach knew he would have to add experienced players to the _____ to compensate* for the spate* of freshmen on the team.
3. There seems to be voluminous* evidence that the mother's smoking will _____ the baby's growth.
4. The prodigy* allowed his musical talent to _____ as he redirected his career.
5. When it seemed that Reggie would _____ his opponent, we broke up the fight.

Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

- | | | |
|----------------|-------|---|
| 6. roster | _____ | a. checked in natural growth, held back in growth |
| 7. stunted | _____ | b. waste away |
| 8. atrophy | _____ | c. a list of names |
| 9. maim | _____ | d. improve, relieve |
| 10. ameliorate | _____ | e. disable, cripple |

TODAY'S IDIOM

to burn the midnight oil—to study or work until very late

The radio was such an enigma* that he had *to burn the midnight oil** for several nights in order to get it working.

NEW WORDS

cynic
sɪn'ɪk

unctuous
ʊŋk'tʃuəs

benevolent
bə'nevələnt

subservient
səb'sɜrvɪənt

iniquity
ɪn'ɪkwəti

DOING THE RIGHT THING

The obstacles that frustrate* the physically handicapped person who is seeking employment may turn him into a *cynic*. Too often a prospective employer, with a rather *unctuous* manner, actually tends to degrade* the handicapped by proffering* employment that is really beneath them and their abilities. The employer appears to be acting in a *benevolent* manner, but this attitude shows no compassion,* for he really expects the person seeking the job to remain *subservient*. This *iniquity* cannot but give the handicapped a feeling that they are being discriminated against. He does not expect a sinecure,* but he has an aversion* to the prevalent* belief that he should consider himself lucky to find any employment.

Sample Sentences Insert the new words in these sentences.

1. We had to wince* as we watched the newcomer try to wheedle* and ingratiate* himself into the teacher's favor in the most _____ manner.
2. It is easy to become a _____ when the same adults who inveigh* most vehemently* against the uncouth actions that they say permeate* our youth drink to satiety* and behave fatuously.*
3. We all have moments when we vacillate* between selfish and _____ desires.
4. While his demeanor* remained imperturbable,* there was latent* anger at the ignominious* and _____ role he had to play.
5. Those who are complacent* about any _____ in our society should be wary* of the unsavory* consequences for all.

Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

- | | | |
|----------------|-------|--------------------------|
| 6. cynic | _____ | a. servile, obsequious* |
| 7. unctuous | _____ | b. pessimist, skeptic |
| 8. benevolent | _____ | c. affectedly emotional |
| 9. subservient | _____ | d. kindly, charitable |
| 10. iniquity | _____ | e. injustice, wickedness |

TODAY'S IDIOM

to lay one's cards on the table—to talk frankly

He knew he was out of his depth* so he laid his cards on the table and asked for assistance.

NEW WORDS

largess
lár' jis

criterion
krí' tîr' é on

repent
ri' pent

mollify
mol' ə fî

mercenary
mér' sə nər' ē

WEEK 43 ❖ DAY 6

A BETTER WAY

Why is there any question about the propriety* of hiring the physically handicapped? No one who understands their needs can condone* this attitude. The offering of employment should not be considered a *largess*. There should be no need to vindicate* the hiring of a handicapped person. The only *criterion* should be what he is capable of doing. If this is the approach, the handicapped worker will not feel he is an encumbrance* to his boss. The employer, on the other hand, will find it conducive* to good work and will not *repent* his having tried something new just to *mollify* his conscience. Even for the most *mercenary* employer, there should be no reticence* in eliciting* the best that is possible from the handicapped worker.

Sample Sentences Insert the new words in these sentences.

1. He felt it would be ignominious* for him to accept any _____ from the charlatan* whose Machiavellian* schemes had made him affluent.*
2. Behind the façade* of ostensible* benevolence* there was a _____ streak.
3. The platitude, "I know what I like," is often used to rationalize* our lack of a _____ for things about which we are dubious.*
4. When Mother is in a pique* about some infraction* of a rule, it takes all of our dexterity* to _____ her.
5. After every election we _____, in a belated* criticism, the apathy* and complacency* of so many people who failed to vote.

Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

- | | | |
|----------------------|-------|--|
| 6. largess | _____ | a. gift, gratuity*, liberality |
| 7. criterion | _____ | b. model, standard, test |
| 8. repent | _____ | c. motivated* by desire for gain, greedy |
| 9. mollify | _____ | d. pacify, appease |
| 10. mercenary (adj.) | _____ | e. regret, desire to make amends |

TODAY'S IDIOM

a bolt from the blue—a great surprise

The windfall* from his distant cousin came like a *bolt from the blue*.

NEW WORDS

pariah
pə'ri:ə

aloof
ə'lu:f

pragmatic
prag'mat'ik

vestige
ves'tij

guise
gɪz

JUST BE YOURSELF

Socially, the handicapped person is often treated as a *pariah*. Most people hold themselves *aloof* from normal contact with those who are "different." This social separation propagates* additional feelings of antipathy*. If "normal" individuals would socialize with the handicapped individual, they would learn in a *pragmatic* way that these are people who happen to have a physical handicap; the handicap does not make them any less human. The iniquity* of assuming that physical superiority equals moral superiority prevents all of us from direct human relationships. As long as there is a *vestige* of feeling that handicapped people are inferior, then we are all handicapped in one way or another. Under the *guise* of physical superiority we demonstrate a moral turpitude* that is harmful to all.

Sample Sentences Insert the new words in these sentences.

1. After therapy*, there remained hardly a _____ of his phobia*.
2. He was stigmatized* as a _____ when he had the audacity* to boast of his nefarious* and sordid* career printing bogus* money.
3. Although many people say this is a propitious* time to invest in the stock market, there is a tenable* argument for remaining _____.
4. In the _____ of maintaining national unity under military rule, there was a paucity* of even innocuous* dissent*.
5. "You can't argue with success," was his _____ reply to derogatory* remarks about a movie star who had only superficial* talent as an actor.

Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

- | | | |
|--------------|-------|-----------------------------------|
| 6. pariah | _____ | a. manner, appearance, mien* |
| 7. aloof | _____ | b. social outcast |
| 8. pragmatic | _____ | c. distant, apart, reserved |
| 9. vestige | _____ | d. trace, evidence |
| 10. guise | _____ | e. practical, based on experience |

TODAY'S IDIOM

to tell tales out of school—to reveal harmful secrets

The fat was in the fire* for the politician when his private secretary started *telling tales out of school* about his secret sources of income.

There are various kinds of handicaps. One that we can do something about, and *you* are now doing it, is the language handicap. Our fullest potential can be realized only when there is no barrier between what we want to say or write and our ability to express ourselves.

REVIEW WORDS

- _____ 1. aloof
- _____ 2. ameliorate
- _____ 3. atrophy
- _____ 4. benevolent
- _____ 5. criterion
- _____ 6. cynic
- _____ 7. guise
- _____ 8. iniquity
- _____ 9. largess
- _____ 10. maim
- _____ 11. mercenary
- _____ 12. mollify
- _____ 13. pariah
- _____ 14. pragmatic
- _____ 15. repent
- _____ 16. roster
- _____ 17. stunted
- _____ 18. subservient
- _____ 19. unctuous
- _____ 20. vestige

DEFINITIONS

- a. based on experience, practical
- b. mien,* appearance, manner
- c. a list of names
- d. skeptic, pessimist
- e. test, model, standard
- f. desire to make amends, regret
- g. obsequious,* servile
- h. held back or checked in natural growth
- i. social outcast
- j. evidence, trace
- k. waste away
- l. charitable, kindly
- m. appease, pacify
- n. wickedness, injustice
- o. cripple, disable
- p. reserved, apart, distant
- q. greedy, motivated* by desire for gain
- r. liberality, gift, gratuity*
- s. affectedly emotional
- t. relieve, improve

IDIOMS

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| _____ 21. to burn the midnight oil | u. to reveal harmful secrets |
| _____ 22. to lay one's cards on the table | v. a great surprise |
| _____ 23. a bolt from the blue | w. to talk frankly |
| _____ 24. to tell tales out of school | x. to study or work until very late |

WORDS FOR FURTHER STUDY

MEANINGS

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

Check your answers on page 309.